News From the Wyoming Department of Health

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Wyoming Tuberculosis Prevention Efforts Working

World TB Day is March 24

CHEYENNE – After more than 12 years of concentrating on screening and preventative therapy for those considered at increased risk for tuberculosis (TB) disease or latent TB infection, Wyoming counted no cases of active TB during 2005 according to the Wyoming Department of Health.

"It didn't happen by accident," said Alex Bowler, TB program coordinator for the department. "Our emphasis on prevention has been successful."

With an average of only four reported cases of active tuberculosis per year between 2000 and 2004, Wyoming's TB Program has been able to focus its resources and efforts on prevention and control measures such as: finding and screening contacts of infectious TB patients, screening members of high-risk populations to find those infected with LTBI and offering preventative therapy to those infected with *M. tuberculosis*.

World TB Day, celebrated each year on March 24, serves as a reminder that prevention and control of tuberculosis remains a concern for public health in Wyoming.

Tuberculosis was once greatly feared in America – including Wyoming – and is still responsible for millions of deaths around the world.

"While we are pleased with our program's success in Wyoming, we can't let down our guard against this terrible disease," Bowler said.

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